

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**PROVISION OF INTEREST FREE LOANS TO THE DESERVING PERSONS IN  
THATTA THROUGH AKHUWAT**

**THE INITIATIVE OF INTEREST FREE LOANS AIMS AT FINANCIAL  
INDEPENDENCE OF POOR PEOPLE: MARVI MEMON**

Islamabad/Thatta ( ) Provision of interest free loans through Akhuwat is an important step towards financial independence of poor people. Through these loans, not only poor people can stand on their own feet by initiating small businesses but the other deserving people can also benefit from them by obtaining employment in these businesses. This was stated by Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon, in her address during the launch of interest free loans in Thatta through Akhuwat.

The scheme of interest free loans was launched in Thatta today. These loans are being provided to the poor and deserving people including BISP beneficiaries by Akhuwat. During the launching ceremony, cheques of interest free loans were distributed among 22 persons.

On the occasion, Chairperson BISP said that the scheme of interest free loans for BISP beneficiaries has already been launched in Lahore under a Memorandum of Understanding between BISP and Akhuwat. BISP beneficiaries in Lahore have started receiving these loans and now the deserving persons in Thatta will also benefit from this scheme.

She also said that the micro-finance schemes are very important for self employment and help poor people in establishing their businesses. She also mentioned the Prime Minister's interest free loans scheme which aims at providing resources to needy people so that they become self sufficient.

Later on, she also visited press club Thatta and press club Makli. While talking to the journalists, she said that BISP is not distributing any forms among poor people for political purposes. She told that in 2008 when BISP was established, services of parliamentarians were obtained for inclusion of beneficiaries. However, in second phase, beneficiaries were identified through a scientific poverty scorecard survey in 2011. Through this survey, 7.7 million beneficiary households were identified. Out of 7.7 million households, at present 5.1 million beneficiaries are receiving financial assistance from BISP. She added that there is no chance of inclusion of beneficiaries beyond already identified 7.7 million beneficiary households unless a resurvey is conducted. She also said that the beneficiaries of BISP do not receive financial assistance from any provincial government. Financial assistance to the beneficiaries is provided from the annual budget of BISP which is allocated by the federal government. The present federal government under Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is committed to give dignity, empowerment and meaning of life to the BISP beneficiaries.

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